

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 17, 2003

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INMATE CONVICTED OF SOLICITING MURDER OF FEDERAL JUDGE

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on June 17, 2003, Robert W. Stewart, 4/24/39, an inmate at the Federal Correctional Institute just North of Phoenix, Arizona, was found guilty on all counts of a four count indictment by a federal jury at Phoenix, Arizona.

The evidence at trial showed that Stewart was serving a five year sentence after being convicted of Unlawful Possession of Firearms by a Convicted Felon and Possession of Unregistered Machine guns, following a federal jury trial before United States District Court Judge Roslyn O. Silver. While at the federal prison he approached another inmate about having Judge Silver killed. Stewart told the inmate that he wanted the judge's head cut off and hung from a pole. He also told the inmate that Judge Silver's murder would spark a rash of copycat murders of other judges around the country. Stewart promised the inmate payment in the form of machineguns and a \$100,000 reward which he indicated was being offered by the Aryan Brotherhood for Judge Silver's murder.

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After learning of Stewart's plan to have Judge Silver killed, the inmate brought this information to the attention of the Bureau of Prisons and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The inmate later wore a recording device to a meeting with Stewart, where details of the desired murder and payment for it were discussed.

The defendant is being held pending sentencing.

Robert W. Stewart had been charged with violating: Title 18 of the United States Code, Sections 115(a)(1)(B) and (b)(4) (Retaliating Against a Federal Official); Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001(a)(2) (False Statements); and, Title 18, United States Code, Section 373(a) (Solicitation to Commit a Crime of Violence). The case was tried before visiting Nevada United States District Court Judge Howard D. McKibben from June 12 through June 17th.

A conviction for 18 U.S.C., §§115(a)(1)(B) and (b)(4) carries a maximum penalty of ten years imprisonment, a \$ 250,000 fine or both. A conviction for 18 U.S.C. §1001(a)(2) carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both. A conviction for Title 18, U.S.C. §373(a) carries a maximum penalty of 20 years, a \$250,000 fine, or both.

The investigation leading to the guilty verdict was conducted by the Bureau of Prisons and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, with assistance from the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

Sentencing is set before Judge Howard D. McKibben on August 25, 2003 at 10:00 a.m.

The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorneys Soo C. Song and Patrick J. Schneider, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-03-061-PHX-HDM
RELEASE NUMBER: 2003-113